



**BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Ministry of Health Services

**Professional and Software Compliance Standards
For HL7 Messaging**

Appendix E - Document Attribute Dictionary

Version 2.1

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1 General Information

This document and its companion volumes contain the **Professional and Software Compliance Standards for HL7 Messaging** between the BC Ministry of Health and external clients. These standards are used for the exchange of information with various business areas within the Ministry including: the Client Registry (patient/client demographics), MSP (beneficiary coverage), MSP Employer Services (enrolment of employees and dependants), Primary Health Care (patient rostering) and Continuing Care (client demographics and history).

1.1 Corrections and updates

Corrections and updates to this appendix can be found at the end of the document. A vertical line in the outside boarder denotes corrections within the document. ¹

1.2 Who is the audience?

This document is intended for use by:

- a) Software Support Organizations (SSO) who wish to develop software that is compliant with the BC standard for the exchange of business area data encompassing Client Registry, MSP, Primary Care, Continuing Care and other Ministry supported transactions.
- b) Providers, administrators, health care professionals and MSP Benefits administrators (public and private employers) who are responsible for the implementation of compliant software in their organizations.

2 Overview

Official documents substantiate claims that are important to the Ministry of Health, such as the right of a person to reside in Canada. Organizations, external to the BC Ministry of Health, control these documents.

Ministry applications like the Client Registry capture the data from these trusted documents using the specifications described in the Document Attribute Dictionary (DAD). The DAD specification lists all recognized trusted documents and their related field attributes. When external organizations change their documents, the DAD is updated accordingly.

The DAD specification changes frequently. SSOs must design their software to accommodate routine changes to document attributes for each type of document and its jurisdictional variants. e.g., a driver's licence as issued by different provinces. New document types can be added to the DAD specification at any time.

Each document description may contain details for up to 50 attributes. These are messaged in ZIK.4 - Document Argument field of the R20 – Record Document. ²

For the R20 transaction the DAD attribute descriptions are used to prompt the user for input, and restrict what is accepted.

The DAD is structured as follows:

Jurisdiction	The jurisdiction of the document issuer. E.g. "BC", "CAN"
Document Type	Code indicating the type of document that the attribute will be found on
Document Name	A descriptive name for the document
Attribute Name	The 10 character name of the attribute
Attribute Description	A detailed description of the attribute
Display Order	The logical keying order in which the attributes should be presented to the user
Data Type	The type of attribute that is to be provided, e.g. char, number or date
Optional	Indication if the attribute is required for recording

A sample segment of the DAD looks like this.

JURIS-DICTION	DOC. TYPE	DOC. NAME	ATTRIBUTE NAME	ATTRIBUTE DESCRIPTION	DISPLAY ORDER	DATA TYPE	OPT.
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	DCMNTCNTRL	ISSUING ORGANIZATION'S DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	1	CHAR	O
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	FIRSTNAME	FIRST NAME FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	2	CHAR	M
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	SECONDNAME	SECOND NAME FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	3	CHAR	O
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	THIRDNAME	THIRD NAME FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	4	CHAR	O
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	SURNAME	SURNAME FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	5	CHAR	M
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	BIRTHDATE	DATE OF BIRTH FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	6	DATE	M
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	GENDER	GENDER FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	7	CHAR	M
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	BIRTHPLACE	PLACE OF BIRTH FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	8	CHAR	M

JURIS-DICTION	DOC. TYPE	DOC. NAME	ATTRIBUTE NAME	ATTRIBUTE DESCRIPTION	DISPLAY ORDER	DATA TYPE	OPT.
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	RGSTRTNDT	DATE DOCUMENT REGISTERED, REGISTRATION DATE, DATE OF REGISTRATION	9	DATE	O
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	RGSTRTNMBR	REGISTRATION NUMBER	10	NUMBER	M
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	FTHRNM	NAME OF FATHER, FATHER'S NAME	11	CHAR	O
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	FTHBRTHPLC	FATHER'S BIRTH PLACE	12	CHAR	O
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	MTHRMDNM	MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER, MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME	13	CHAR	O
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	MTHBRTHPLC	MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH	14	CHAR	O
AB	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	ISSUEDATE	DATE DOCUMENT ISSUED	15	DATE	O
BC	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	DCMNTCNTRL	ISSUING ORGANIZATION'S DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	1	CHAR	O
BC	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	FIRSTNAME	FIRST NAME FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	2	CHAR	M
BC	BCRT	BIRTH CERTIFICATE	SECONDNAME	SECOND NAME FOR DOCUMENT HOLDER	3	CHAR	O

This sample illustrates that a total of 15 attributes can be recorded for an Alberta Birth Certificate with the following characteristics:

- Three (3) of the attributes are date fields, one is numeric and the remainder are text.
- Six (6) attributes are mandatory and must be supplied in a message;

SSO's must use the document field definitions in the DAD to regulate data entry for messages. Only DAD defined document attributes can be used in the ZIK segment.

It is strongly recommended that the SSOs not “hard code” document types or attributes into their systems as these change frequently.

The Document Attribute Dictionary is a comma-delimited ASCII file that can be downloaded from the *healthnetBC* web site. See Supporting Information and Documentation at <http://healthnet.hnet.bc.ca/catalogu/tech/compdocs.html>³

2.1 Business Rules

1. Attributes that are designated “mandatory” in the DAD must be entered when a document is recorded for the R20 – Record Document transactions.²
2. Attributes recorded from a document must meet the data type rules specified in the DAD for the R20 – Record Document transactions². Attributes will be designated type “CHAR,” “NUMBER” or “DATE.” “CHAR” attributes may contain any letters, numbers or special characters. “NUMBER” attributes must contain only numbers and a single decimal point. “DATE” attributes must contain dates (numbers) of the format “CCYYMMDD.”¹
Refer to Section 5 – Network Transmission and Responses if HL7 encoding characters are contained in any attribute.
3. All information on a document must be recorded exactly as it appears on the document. It must not be abbreviated or changed. If any information cannot be recorded as it appears on the original document, the user should contact the *healthnetBC* Help Desk.
4. Document and attribute descriptions should be displayed for the user or provided in user documentation.

¹ Data values are carried in the second component of the ZRG datatype used in ZIK.4 . This component is of type String. The content must be parseable as the datatype defined in the DAD.



Document History

DOCUMENT MODIFICATION HISTORY		
Version	Release Date	Description
2.0	September 1999	Original single document
2.1	<version date>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised format. New general introduction. Removed previous references to R08 which does not support trusted documents. Minor corrections as described in the endnotes.

Corrections and Update Notes

¹ 02/Nov/27 – example of correction

² Removed reference to R08 transaction. The R08 does not support trusted documents. Instead, the Business Rules for this message require the use of R20.

³ website reference updated.